

Status and Problems of the IDCS

NOAA-WP-18 provides a status report on the performance of the International Data Collection System (IDCS). Anticipating the delivery and installation of the DCS Automatic Processing System II (DAPS II), the current monitoring procedures were interrupted several times, and were terminated upon delivery of DAPS II (which is yet to be installed). Due to indefinite delays in the deployment of DAPS II, NOAA is investigating the possibility of running the Channel Interference Monitoring System (CIMS) portion of the DAPS II system in a stand alone mode. As previously noted, a conflict in the addressing scheme makes it difficult for the NOAA to include new addresses generated by EUMETSAT. Some of the addresses generated for the IDCS by EUMETSAT already exist in the NOAA database, assigned to US platforms that have been operating for decades. This conflict was not recognized by the NOAA representatives to the CGMS at the time that the scheme was agreed upon, and has been recognized as a serious problem in database coordination among the satellite operators. NOAA plans to address this discrepancy after the completion and phase-in of DAPS II.

Status and Problems of the IDCS

1. INTRODUCTION

The High Data Rate Project in the United States GOES DCS Program continues to function well, with almost 4000 high data rate assignments now in place. The block of channels allocated for these assignments are rapidly filling and the complement of demodulators available for use are being depleted. NOAA contracted to have a complete set of digital demodulators delivered as part of the DAPS II project. That project is in negotiation with the contractor, and is delayed at least another year. The demodulators (which appear to work extremely well) are tied up in those discussions, and not available for NOAA use. As a stopgap measure, NOAA is building an interface from that series of demodulators to our current DAPS system. We hope to come to an agreement which will allow us use of those demodulators, but if not we plan to build more of the same series for use in the current system. These additional demodulators would then transition into the new system, and would be available as backups.

The exercise to clear 100 baud channels for 300 baud use is progressing well, but a block of random channels sitting between channels 100 and 130 are blocking the way. NOAA hopes that the CGMS will consider our request for 5 international channels (which we will then use as 10 1.5 KHz channels) in order to expedite the transition of those channels to 300 baud use.

2. STATUS OF IDCS

This document presents a status report on the performance of the International Data Collection System (IDCS). Anticipating the delivery and installation of the DAPSII system, the current monitoring procedures were interrupted several times, and were termination upon delivery of DAPS II (which is yet to be accepted). Due to indefinite delays in the deployment of DAPS II, NOAA is investigating the possibility of running the Channel Interference Monitoring System (CIMS) portion of that system in a stand alone mode.

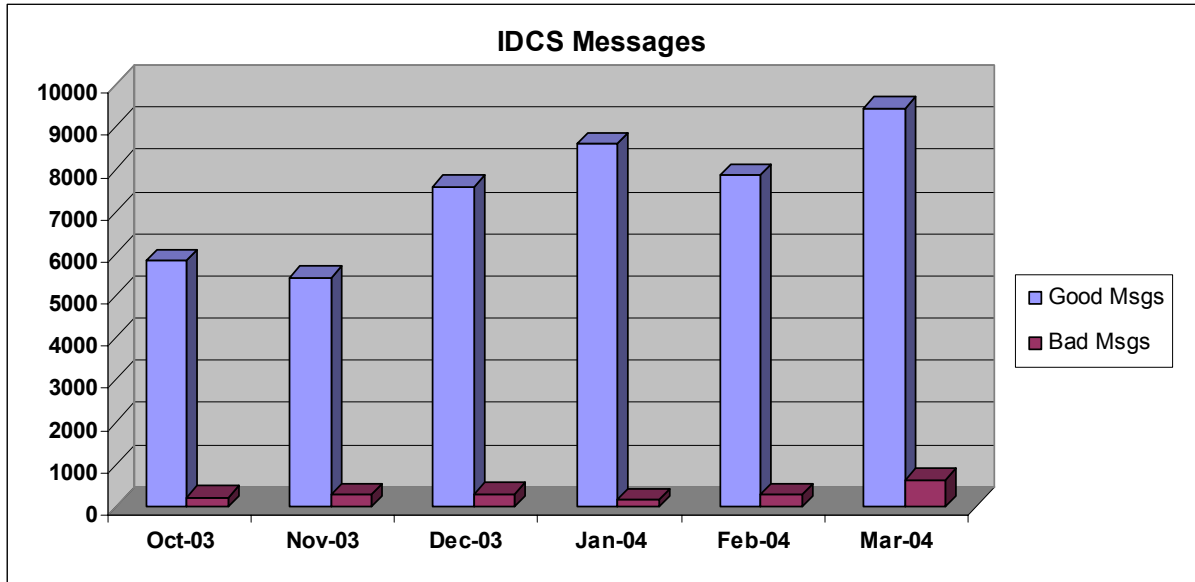
As of the beginning of April 2004, the NOAA database contained only 177 International DCPs (IDCP) active on 12 of the 33 international channels:

Channel #	06	07	12	13	14	15	16	17	20	18	23	27
# of IDCP	30	39	15	2	10	10	6	6	9	21	20	18

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to the CGMS at the time that the scheme was agreed upon, and has been recognized as a serious problem in database coordination among the satellite operators. The NOAA plans to address this discrepancy after the completion and phase-in of DAPS II.

The graph below is a summary of the good and bad messages transmitted on the IDCS channels. During the months of October through March, the totals show a steady increase.



3. INTERFERENCE TO THE IDCS

NOAA is preparing for the installation and checkout of its new DCS Automatic Processing System II. Several subsystems including the Channel Interference Monitoring System (CIMS) were deactivated. Therefore, activities associated with monitoring the IDCS for interference were suspended.

4. CONSOLIDATED LIST OF IDCS ALLOCATIONS

There have been very few new allocations of IDCPS within the past year.

5. CONCLUSION

CGMS members are invited to take note of the status and performance of the IDCS at www.dcs.noaa.gov.